THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (c) Indian Railways provide service for transportation of cargo both by freight trains as well as by passenger carrying trains. However, finished products of Small Scale Industries being less than train load, is generally carried as parcel. Parcel is mostly carried by passenger carrying trains whose composition includes 2 Brakevans. In addition parcels are sometimes also cleared by Parcel Vans depending on demand. To provide value added service to customers, schemes for leasing of parcel space in the front Brakevan of passenger carrying trains and leasing of round trip Parcel Vans have been introduced with assured service and guaranteed transit time.

A network of Inland Container Depots (ICDs) and Container Freight Stations (CFS) have been developed by Container Corporation of India Ltd. (CONCOR) throughout the country for door-to-door freight service. CONCOR has established a separte Domestic Division to attract larger volumes of inland traffic to rail by providing door-to-door services and aggregate piece meal cargo into train loads to fill up the logistics gap between customer and Railways. Introduction of high-speed container trains and computerization of freight operations has further improved the quality of service and information to the customers.

Red Tariff Rules

4767. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA:

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Railways follow the Red Tariff Rules for movement of hazardous cargo;

(b) whether it is a fact that Railways have not updated the rules determining ways of transporting hazardous cargo;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal by the Railway to adopt the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code for movement of hazardous cargo;

(d) if not, the reasons for the Railways not updating the rules with regard to movement of hazardous cargo through crowded cities and towns in the country; and

(e) the steps proposed to consider having safer rules for rail travel and movement of cargo?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Railways accord provisional clearance to the transportation of international containers containing such dangerous/hazardous/offensive commodities, which have not yet been included in the Red Tariff, subject to observance of norms prescribed in International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code and other terms & conditions.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Extension of Delhi-Ahmedabad Rail lines

†4768. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Delhi-Ahmedabad rail line is proposed to be extended upto Gandhinagar;

(b) whether the budget for the same has also been sanctioned;

(c) if so, the reasons for not starting any work on the project till now; and

(d) by when the said work would be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) to (d) The work of construction of Gandhinagar-Adraj Moti-Kalol is in progress to provide direct connectivity to Gandhinagar from Delhi-Ahmedabad line. This project is targeted for completion during 2005-06. An outlay of Rs. 15 crore has been provided for the project in the budget 2005-06.

Paradip Port Trust

4769. MS.PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Paradip Port Trust has asked for allotment of additional rakes for transportation of iron ore from the mines to the port;

(b) whether Railways have expressed their inability to agree to the request;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.